

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of conducting a wagering game, the wagering game including a game sequence in which a player makes a wager and a wagering game outcome is determined, the method comprising:

conducting the wagering game using a gaming apparatus to receive inputs from the player and to generate wagering game outcomes that are communicated to the player, the gaming apparatus including a user interface device configured to receive an input from the player a display device configured to display information or graphics to be viewed by the player, one or more storage devices, and one or more processors configured to execute computer instructions relating to the wagering game;
receiving a wager from a player to play the wagering game at the user interface device;
transforming the player input into electronic data signals indicative of a wager to play the wagering game;
using one of the processors to interpret the wager from the data signals and to, at least in part, cause the recording of a digital representation of the wager in a gaming apparatus storage device;
using one of the gaming apparatus processors to cause the display of a visual indication of the wager on the display device;
using a gaming apparatus processor to initiate a game sequence of the wagering game on the gaming apparatus, wherein the game sequence includes accumulating bonus points based on a randomly selected outcome in the wagering game; and
offering allowing the player a selection of a plurality of player-selectable options to redeem a number of the bonus points for one of a plurality of possible player-selectable options at a time selected by the player, the plurality of player-selectable options including: (i) an immediately specified wagering game credit amount and (ii) a bonus game feature for determining a random award greater than, equal to or less than the immediately specified wagering game credit amount.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of possible options include a plurality of bonus game features worth different numbers of the bonus points such that the different numbers of the bonus points are redeemed to play the respective bonus game features.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the bonus game features are interactive.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the bonus game feature includes a plurality of player-selectable elements.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the allowing includes allowing the player to redeem the number of the bonus points during any game play cycle defined as starting with the wager and ending with a succeeding wager triggering another play of the game.

9. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine for conducting a wagering game, comprising:
a value input device for receiving a wager from a player to play the wagering game; and
a processor operative to
accumulate bonus points based on a randomly selected outcome in the wagering game;
and

allow the player to redeem a number of the bonus points by selecting ~~for~~ any one of a plurality of ~~possible~~ player-selectable options at a time selected by the player, the plurality of player-selectable options including: (i) an immediately specified wagering game credit amount awarded to the player as a result of the selection and (ii) a bonus game feature awarded to the player as a result of the selection for determining a random wagering game credit award greater than, equal to or less than the immediately specified wagering game credit amount.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 9, wherein the plurality of possible options include a plurality of bonus game features worth different numbers of the bonus points such that the different numbers of the bonus points are redeemed to play the respective bonus game features.

12. (Original) The machine of claim 11, wherein the bonus game features are interactive.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 9, wherein the bonus game feature includes a plurality of player-selectable elements.

16. (Original) The machine of claim 9, wherein the processor is operative to allow the player to redeem the number of the bonus points during any game play cycle defined as starting with the wager and ending with a succeeding wager triggering another play of the game.

17. (New) A gaming machine for conducting a wagering game, comprising:

a value input device for receiving a credit wager from a player to play the wagering game, the credit being only immediately redeemable at the end of a play of the wagering game either for a money value or for at least one play of the wagering game; and

a processor operative to accumulate bonus points based on a randomly selected outcome in the wagering game; and

allow the player to redeem a number of the bonus points by selecting any one of a plurality of player-selectable options at a time selected by the player, the plurality of player-selectable options including: (i) an immediately specified credit amount awarded to the player as a result of the selection and (ii) a bonus game feature awarded to the player as a result of the selection for determining a random credit award greater than, equal to or less than the immediately specified credit amount.

18. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the bonus points are associated solely with the wagering game.